

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Saturday, the 20th September 1947.

The House met in the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at eleven of the clock, Mr. President (THE HON. SRI R. B. RAMAKRISHNA RAJU) in the Chair.

[Note.—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ Have we now got quorum? ”

HON. MEMBERS :—“ Yes, Sir.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ Mr. Narayana Menon will now speak.”

DEBATE ON THE FOOD SITUATION IN THE PROVINCE—cont.

* SRI M. NARAYANA MENON :—“ Sir, I am sure our Minister will be giving us a well-considered plan of work for the present as well as for the future. I shall only make a few remarks which I hope will be useful to him in this connexion.

“ Sir, with regard to procurement, my idea is this. In a district there will be persons who are actually cultivating the land and persons to whom lands have been leased out for cultivation. Every lessee will have to pay something to the lessor and that can be easily ascertained. That amount must be handed over less the amount allowed for his maintenance by the lessor to the person procuring, that is to say the agency authorized for the purpose of procurement. As regards the other person who actually cultivates the land a calculation must be made of what will be available with him after reserving something for his maintenance and for his agricultural purposes. That must be done in every village and the village authorities must be asked to see that the figures are correct as far as possible. Then these figures must be given to the respective lessors and the lessees and the cultivators so that they may be sure that a demand would be made upon them by the Government through the agency intended for procurement. This must be done beforehand.

“ Secondly the collection must be commenced as soon as the harvest is over. If that is not done there is the possibility of something being concealed or being sent to some other place. Within about fifteen days after the completion of the harvest the collection also must be practically over.

“ The question then arises where the collected produce will be preserved. In a district or taluk which has surplus production, first of all the amount required for the district or taluk must be reserved in the taluk or the district and stored in godowns specially built for the purpose. These godowns may be distributed in different parts of the district or taluk as far as possible so that transport expenses may not have to be charged on the consumers.”

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SRI B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU :—“ Is the quantity to be reserved for the district or taluk to be calculated at 8 ounces or 10 ounces? ”

* SRI M. NARAYANA MENON :—“ First of all the amount that will be available by procurement or import will be known to the Government. Then they will have a rough idea of how it can be distributed, how much can be left for the cultivator for his own purposes and so on. The amount may be increased, but in no case it will be decreased. Both the lessee and the landholder must be informed that they are liable to surrender so much to the Government. These figures must then be communicated to the societies or agencies for the purpose of collection. There is no use of saying that no one must get 18 ounces and another must get 24 ounces. The amount available must be equally distributed. If you want to give something extra to the producer, that must be given even in the beginning and the rest made available for distribution. The work must commence even now. In each district what is necessary for the district must be preserved in certain godowns hired or constructed by the Government in that district or taluk so that transporting may take place without much difficulty or labour. That is so far as collection from each district is concerned.

“ Then where shall we transfer the quantity that is not necessary for that district or taluk? You must take it to the nearest deficit district or taluk. There should be also similar godowns there. There are certain districts and certain taluks where sufficient food cannot be found unless you get materials from outside. But whatever you get from that district, must be dealt with accordingly. This collection and distribution must commence from the very beginning.

“ Then with regard to the agency for procurement and distribution, there are now three agencies, namely, the wholesale co-operative stores, the producers-cum-consumers co-operative societies and private agencies. In this connexion let us not say that private agencies must be sent away and that wholesale co-operative societies alone should work. Let us not also say that producers-cum-consumers co-operative societies also should not work. Wherever any agency can be conveniently used, let that agency be used. Wherever any one is working properly and efficiently it can be utilized for that place. If in Malabar the producers-cum-consumers co-operative societies are working satisfactorily they may be continued because they are doing satisfactory work. I am not saying that they are doing well or they are not doing well. That is another matter. If they are now working there, please continue them; do not remove them and put a substitute as a matter of experiment, for this is not the time for experiments. I know in some places the private agencies work well and I know that in some places the producers-cum-consumers co-operative societies will not work well. All these things the Hon. Minister can find for himself by consulting the Members of the House or by getting information from his own officers working in those places. So far as the agency for procurement is concerned, I submit there should

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be no hard and fast rule. Let us not have fads at all in this matter and let us try each and every method according to the particular places where they have been successful or not successful.

“ With regard to Malabar, generally it is believed that these producers-cum-consumers co-operative societies are working well. At first sight it would seem so, but I should like to make one disclosure so far as figures are available. In Malabar, we have plenty of production in the two taluks of Palghat and Walluvanad. These two taluks have done very good work. The procurement in Palghat was 8,000 tons more than the previous year and in Walluvanad the procurement was 3,000 tons more than the previous year. In Wynaad taluk too, it was successful to some extent, but in the other seven taluks, procurement was not very successful. I understand that the total procurement in Malabar has exceeded by 4,000 tons the procurement of last year, but the procurement in these two taluks of Palghat and Walluvanad alone has exceeded last year's procurement by 11,000 tons. It is therefore clear that procurement in the other seven taluks there is an average of 1,000 tons less collected this year than in the previous year. Of course it cannot be said that they have not been successful on the whole, because the total procurement has exceeded by 4,000 tons.

“ A gentleman pointed out to me that the procurement in the two taluks of Palghat and Walluvanad was much more this year than in the previous year because manure was given free by the Government to these two taluks and there was much better production and consequently much better procurement. Therefore, Sir, all these things must be taken into consideration and the Ministry should decide whether these societies should continue or not.

“ I want to give one warning. If you remove these producers-cum-consumers co-operative societies from Malabar it will be difficult to put proper and efficient substitutes in their place, so that I suggest that for the present these societies may be allowed to continue and given sufficient encouragement to work for this year at least until you get proper substitutes for the next year. It is not advisable to remove them and then go about finding other agencies, because we do not know whether the other agencies will work efficiently or not. Therefore as a matter of caution these societies must be continued for the present.”

K. T. M. AHAMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—“ What about the agencies which were existing before the introduction of these societies? ”

* SRI M. NARAYANA MENON :—“ Rightly or wrongly they were removed and substituted by the producers-cum-consumers co-operative societies. And have not these societies collected 4,000 tons more than the previous year? They have not been complete failures; it may be they have not been as successful as was expected. But there is a distinct difference between the quality of the thing collected in 1945-46 and the quality of the thing collected in

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1946-47. Now there is less of mixture of foreign articles such as sand, pebbles, etc., in the rice. This time we do not get this sort of thing. We must consider all these things. I do not say the previous agencies were dishonest, but I say that these people are more honest.

11-15
a.m.

"With regard to these societies also, there is not much union among the members. There is in fact a struggle for keeping power in each society on the part of the president or the vice-president or the directors. That struggle is going on. Probably that is the way with all democratic institutions. Though it is democratic, sometimes it works to the detriment of not only themselves but also of others. Any way, you should continue them for at least this year and give them all encouragement. (The President sounded the gong.) I will finish, Sir.

"One other point and that is: What shall we do hereafter? So much has been said against blackmarketing. I admit it is a most reprehensible thing which should be avoided. Put all the Government force against it and even then can you prevent it? I say 'no' because it is after all a contract between the purchaser and the seller. If the purchaser is prepared to pay more and the seller is willing to part with his goods, what is there in the world to prevent it? The object of the seller is to make more money just like every capitalist. If there are hundred things and thousand people ask for them, the result is auction and the things are sold to the highest bidders. It may be criminal, but all the same it is rational. The only way to prevent blackmarketing is more production. Production is a very big problem. We must make a determined effort to increase production in the course of five, ten or fifteen years. We make a beginning saying that we must construct so many reservoirs and so on. Next year, we say we have no money, and the whole thing falls down like a house of cards. Unless we plan with a determination, we cannot prevent blackmarketing due to scarcity, as the speeches of members on the food problem both in this House and the other House go to show. This planning will be for the future. But the question is what are we to do immediately. The Government alone will not be able to tackle the problem. All of us must make efforts so that our people may not die. The three methods of *Sama*, *Bheda*, *Dana*, may be adopted in the collection and distribution of foodgrains. But if it becomes necessary to employ the fourth method, namely, *Danda*, please do adopt it.

"With regard to future production, extensive and intensive cultivation is necessary. For water irrigation, electric power and manure are also necessary. All these subjects may be under the charge of two or three Ministers. There must be a liaison officer, or the Prime Minister may intervene, to co-ordinate their work. This is all that I have to submit. I am sure the Hon. Dr. Rajan, who is taking keen interest in the matter and who is very eager to remove all our difficulties, will take all these things into consideration."

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* DR. SYED TAJUDDIN SAHIB :—“ Mr. President, Sir, it goes without saying that a triple-headed monster is staring at us. It is staring not only at us, but it is tending to embrace the whole globe in its deadly grasp. Of the three primary necessities of existence, food is the most fundamental and therefore it is of paramount importance. This grim and grave problem has got two aspects, namely, procurement and production.

“ So far as procurement is concerned, our popular Premier, the Food Minister and some other Ministers are trotting from one district to the other. I hear that they have even gone to the doors of some wealthy mirasdars and implored them to save the situation by being more generous. But I say that any amount of persuasion or even coercion may not go the whole extent. People should not labour under the notion that it is the duty of the Government alone to procure food for one and all. Unless the people discharge their duties by their neighbours, Government will not be able to carry out their plans, however best their intentions may be. Procurement should spring from the sympathetic and kind hearts of one and all of the mirasdars. If the milk of human sympathy is curdled in the breasts of such hard-hearted mirasdars, how can the Government, or any plan or policy for the matter of that, succeed?

“ Coming to production, I quite agree that we should have both intensive and extensive cultivation. So far as extensive cultivation is concerned, the cultivable waste land in the whole of this sub-continent is about 150 million acres. Our Province has got about one-twelfth of it. Such a vast acreage of land is lying waste waiting for the plough. This Legislature came into existence last year. Even on some prior occasion, I impressed upon the Government that in extraordinary times revolutionary changes in agriculture should be adopted. There is no use going on with humdrum methods. We are still having 99 per cent of antediluvian methods. Of course, there is a controversy about mechanization of agriculture. For mechanization, I know, there are practical difficulties in the way. On that account, we should not sleep over the matter and go on with antediluvian methods. Egypt produces about 2,900 and odd pounds of rice per acre and Japan produces 3,444 pounds per acre. But what about India? In so many things, we are still the backwaters of the world continuing as a hermit-nation and following antedeluvian methods. We are able to produce only 1,200 and odd pounds per acre. It is the poorest average in the whole world. What are the reasons for this poor yield? Not only the indolence of the people, but certain other factors play their part. First and foremost, there is soil erosion. Soil is earth's capital and it is very important. Without it, there is no cultivation. The upper layer of the cultivable lands is washed away. Along with these washings, important minerals that feed the plants are also washed away. The soil is robbed of its mineral constituents with the result that it gets impoverished. What is the remedy for soil erosion? Wherever possible in all forest and arable areas, afforestation should be introduced. The people should be induced to plant trees wherever possible. The

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lands should be sorted out according to levels and stepped up in the undulating portions. These are the two important remedies which should be tried.

" Besides soil erosion, we must devote attention to animal husbandry. India is over-littered with cattle. We are 40 million strong and the cattle also are 40 million strong. Our Province has got about one-eighth of the total cattle population. Both men and cattle are literally starving. There is lack of fodder all over. We have been cultivating crops for our own purposes. We forget our foster-mother the cow and the other cattle such as goats which supply us with milk, butter and other nourishing and delicious things. We forget all these poor creatures. We seldom think of improving the fodder situation. Human beings are mostly selfish and they do not extend their hand of sympathy to the dump driven cattle. Fodder seeds should be got from western countries and sown here. I would urge the Madras Government to start fodder farms wherever possible.

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a.m.

" Coming to manure, we as a nation are perpetrating a crime and a sin, with regard to this. Look at the enormous waste of cattle urine and cowdung. There are countries in the East and the West where this urine is considered to be a very important fluid. They preserve cattle urine and utilize it for purposes of agriculture. We use cowdung as fuel. It is criminal to use cowdung as fuel. I would even request the Government to pass a law to punish those who use cowdung as fuel. Cattle urine and cowdung are so essential for agriculture and therefore they are very precious products

" Coming to cash crops, some time ago I had occasion to say on the floor of this very House that cash crops should be not only restricted but even scrapped altogether till we were able to tide over the food crises. There has been precedents for it in this country. For two or three years during war time in Bengal, similar action was taken in the areas allotted for commercial crops. When the rich and poor alike are on starvation diet and are consuming far below the optimum food minimum, what does it matter whether a man does not smoke or chew tobacco. I think it will be a gravest sin on the part of the Government to allow the growing of tobacco in the present crisis.

" Coming to sugarcane, I think I am not wrong if I say that the acreage has gone up. Rice, wheat and other foodgrains that we consume are crammed with starch. Therefore there is little necessity for sugar as the starch is converted into sugar in the human body. If at all, a small acreage may be allowed for sugarcane. So also with regard to groundnuts. Groundnuts should be raised only for edible purposes and for nothing else. About cotton, we may go even half naked, as Gandhiji is leading us in that direction, till we attain self-sufficiency in food. Vegetables contain up to 30 to 40 per cent of starch. So in the Grow More Food campaign, vegetables should claim first attention. The

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other day I emphasised that the crotons and other luxury plants in the compounds of the bungalows in this and other cities should be removed and substituted by vegetables and fruit trees. The owners of these bungalows should be penalized or heavily taxed so that they may take to vegetable gardening.

"Then there are the bee industry, poultry rearing, fish industry, and meat production. Fish is an important article of food and an impetus must be given to that industry. In the place of the antediluvian catamarans, you must introduce fishing trawlers and boats.

"Fragmentation of holdings should be stopped, and to this end, the amendment of the law of inheritance should be taken up. Consolidation on a voluntary basis should also be attempted.

"Co-operative farming should be undertaken wherever possible. (The President sounded the gong.)

"I wanted to say many things, but for want of time, I am not saying them. I appeal to the Hon. Ministers for Food and Agriculture to pay attention to the present crisis and to chalk out a long-term plan in which research should be given its proper place."

(Sri Mothey Narayana Rao began to address the House in Telugu.)

K. T. M. AHAMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—"On a point of order, Sir. If an hon. Member knows English and if he has been speaking in English, is it not the practice that he should speak in the same language?"

MR. PRESIDENT :—"My policy has been to allow the members to speak in any language they like. I do not want to make a stiff rule in the matter. But if an hon. Member wants that the other members should understand his speech, he should speak in English."

SRI MOTHEY NARAYANA RAO :—"I can speak in English, but I can express myself better in my own mother-tongue."

MR. PRESIDENT :—"I know you can express yourself very well in English."

SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR :—"On a point of order, Sir."

MR. PRESIDENT :—"The point of order must have been raised when you spoke in Tamil the other day. Why do you now come to the front?"

SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR :—"It is only on that point that I want to speak. When the Council met last year under your presidentship, I spoke in Tamil and objection was raised. You said that members could speak in any language they chose. If that is so, it is open to the hon. Member to speak in Telugu. If hon. Members are not able to understand the speech, they must find out some means of understanding it. Arrangements must be made for translation."

MR. PRESIDENT :—"It is true that a member can speak in any language he chooses. But it is not right that at one time he

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should speak in English, at another time in Tamil and yet another time in Telugu. You may choose any language you like, but I would like you to restrict yourself to the language you have chosen and not change as you please."

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" It is not so much to speak on the point of order that I rise. Is it the object of the speaker to make some of the Members of the Government and others understand what he says or is it simply to produce a babel of tongues? Unfortunately English is the only language which most of us can understand."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I suppose the Hon. Minister must have heard me when I said that if an hon. Member wanted that the other members should understand his speech, he should speak in English. It is better that each member sticks to one language."

11-45
a.m.

* SRI MOTHEY NARAYANA RAO :—" Mr. President, Sir, I want to congratulate the Hon. Minister for Food for having given us a clear statement regarding the food situation in this Province and for consulting and taking the advice of this House in the matter. But I do not know if he is going to profit by our advice, because various aspects of the problem have been put before him and various suggestions have been made and I think he should be in a greater dilemma after these discussions than he was when he started this debate. Some members spoke in favour of some solution while some others spoke contradicting the same, so much so, he must have been worse confounded now than before. But anyhow, I should like to put forward my views on this question.

" Sir, various reasons have been attributed for this great calamity. Some people say that it is due to the bad functioning of the food committees; some others attribute it to the failure of the producer-cum-consumer co-operative societies; still some others say that the Hon. Ministers who had been to Delhi had not taken due care at the proper time and impressed upon the Government of India the gravity of the situation; and yet some others say that Professor Ranga, the President of the Andhra Provincial Congress Committee, and the Andhra leader, Mr. Prakasam have been to some extent the cause for the paddy not coming out of the hoarded stocks in the Circars, which is utterly unfounded. Sir, whatever the reasons may be, the Government have been trying their very best to tide over the crisis. First of all, the powers that were given to the food committees have been removed and procurement which was entrusted to the co-operative societies has now been taken away from them and given over to the millers. My hon. Friend opposite has said that the co-operative societies have been abolished altogether. But I should like to suggest to the Government that they should be reorganized and enabled to work better and again take up the supply of foodgrains to the people.

" Then Sir, various methods of propaganda are being carried on. Hon. Ministers are very busy going about the districts

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explaining the gravity of the situation and urging the producers to surrender their surplus and the officials are also very busy going about the villages for unearthing the foodgrains that have been concealed. Last year, it was a very bad year, but this year it is still worse. Although we have been able to produce more food, we are not able to get more food. It is a very pitiable circumstance. There is no doubt about it. We must carefully see how to get over the present crisis and save our people from starvation. What is the real reason for the producer not coming out with his stocks of grains and what is the method that the Government should adopt to induce him to part with it. What I should like to suggest, is that the Government must see that the producer gives out his produce willingly and that you do not use any coercion or threat. You must infuse confidence in him and impress upon him that it is his duty to surrender his surplus stock. The amendment moved by my hon. Friend Mr. Narayanaswami Nayudu and supported by Mr. Muthuranga Mudaliyar is very fair and reasonable, but whether we can vote for it is a different matter. We know that the Government are doing their best in this direction and I do not think there is any necessity for the amendment. All that he suggested are known to the Government and I know that the Government are doing their best to tide over the present crisis. They have fought with the Government of India for an increase in the price of paddy, but they have not been successful. Some time must be given to the Government to give effect to all the suggestions made and we know quite well that the Government are very earnest about solving the food problem permanently. Even if Mr. Narayanaswami Nayudu were to sit in the Treasury Bench, I do not think he will be able to do all the things he has asked for. I therefore think there is no necessity for the amendment and I hope that before the end of this debate, Mr. Narayanaswami Nayudu will withdraw his amendment."

MR. PRESIDENT:—"I don't think you should suggest that he should withdraw his amendment. It is enough if he does not press for a division."

* SRI MOTHEY NARAYANA RAO:—"Now, Sir, what is the position of the ryot to-day? He is in a very delicate and precarious position. Firstly it does not pay him to produce paddy. He has to feed himself and his family and also pay for the labour in kind. He has to pay the kist, and has to meet the various other incidental expenses and further he has to purchase his cloth and other requirements of life at a very high cost. Now for instance, let me take the Guntur district. In Guntur many people grow tobacco; they grow cotton, chillies, groundnut and other commercial crops and make a lot of profit. In the upland areas alone where they grow tobacco, they make a profit of Rs. 200 to Rs. 500 per acre, whereas a paddy grower is not able to make both ends meet. So there is a sort of heart-burning among the ryots who grow paddy and it is most unjust to expect him always to serve others. He must also be made to stand on his own legs and that must be the policy of the Government."

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"Sir, my hon. Friend Mr. Bhima Rao was telling me the other day that in Bellary the ryots have proposed to bring all the lands under the Thungabhadra scheme under sugarcane cultivation, which they think would be a most remunerative proposition. I should therefore like to bring to the notice of the Government that such proposals should not be encouraged and that all lands where commercial crops are grown should be brought under paddy cultivation. There is a Telugu proverb like this "వాయిదా వచ్చినా ఉప్పు లేకుండా ఉంటుంది" which means, that while one man wants sugar for his *payasam*, the other man is in need of salt for his *conjee*. We cannot afford to have luxury at present: What we must do is to see that the paddy cultivation is made an economic proposition and the ryot is given all facilities to grow it. It has been proved beyond doubt on the floor of this House, and it has also been admitted by the Government that the price of paddy is very low, and that is why they have been fighting with the Central Government for an increase in its price.

"In this connexion, I should also like to suggest that even the cultivation of coffee and tea in the Hills should be given up in preference to vegetables and fruits. We know that coffee is poison for us; so also is tea. In the Nilgiris, almost all the lands are grown with coffee and tea. Why should not excellent vegetables and fruits be grown in those lands? Just as toddy is prohibited by Government, so also tea and coffee should be prohibited, as they are injurious to health. Our friend Mr. Tajuddin said that cowdung should be preserved. I would go further and say that cow slaughter should also be stopped."

K. T. M. AHAMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—"Then you must give more food for us."

* SRI MOTHEY NARAYANA RAO :—"Sir, by prohibiting cow-slaughter, you get more milk, etc., and more cowdung, both of which are necessary for us. If you want to tackle this food problem, there are various methods of doing so, and the Government should tackle it in right earnest and in the proper way.

"Now, Sir, let me say a word about rationing. Some members have suggested that this rationing system should be abolished altogether. Others have said that it should be retained. For my part, I would suggest that in surplus districts, rationing should be given up. It is a farce to say that people are getting on with the 8-ounce rations in the surplus districts. I know for instance in the West Godavari and in other districts in the Circars, only very few people are taking the 8-ounce rations. I don't think that many of the hon. Members of this House are getting on with the 8-ounce rations, and even the members of the House know that it is hardly sufficient to get on with it."

MR. PRESIDENT :—"I don't think you are taking any rice at all!"

* SRI MOTHEY NARAYANA RAO :—"Yes, I do not eat any rationed food. Therefore I ask, Sir, what is the use of

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retaining this system of rationing? Even labourers are not content with this ration prescribed by the Government. They easily purchase their requirements in the blackmarket at the rate of even Re. 1 per seer. So much so, by keeping this ration and keeping down the price of paddy, we are not helping either the producer or the consumer. That is why, I would plead again that this rationing system should be abolished at least in the surplus districts.

“ Sir, my Friend, Mr. Narayana Menon, complained of Malabar as being a deficit district. But what about the coconuts that are growing in plenty in that district? He wants a good price for his coconut and his coconut-oil; then why not you pay a reasonable price for our paddy? I want that an economic price should be fixed for paddy. In Bellary, they want only to grow dry crops and obtain a good price for their produce. In Malabar they grow coconuts, and get a very high price for them. Why should districts like Kistna, East Godavari, etc., alone produce paddy and feed the people of other deficit areas and be content with such low price for its paddy? That is my argument. When all other cultivators are getting an economic price for their produce, why should the paddy cultivators alone be made to suffer, when it is the most important foodgrain to feed the people of this Province? I would therefore once again urge upon the Government to bring pressure upon the Central Government and see that the price of paddy is increased.

“ Now, Sir, about the use of force, much has been said. I would say that ours is a popular Government and the use of force must be the last resort and even the talk of force is perhaps not very good. We know that there are four methods by which we can achieve our object. They are in the following order: Sama, Bheda, Dana and Dhandam. The use of force comes only in the last, and must be resorted to only in the last stage, when all others fail. And hence, a popular Government should adopt this maxim more than any other.

“ But we must understand the grievances of the ryots; we must understand their position and try to infuse confidence in them and then if they fail to respond, you can take action. The ryot feels that he is neglected. The ryot feels that his demands are not met; for instance, manure. There is a lot of demand in our district for groundnut cake. There is now no groundnut cake at all in the district. The Government have increased the rate for manure, but the price of paddy is the same. What is the fun, I ask? Groundnut cake is lying in large quantities in the Ganjam district, but we are not able to get it; the Government have not taken proper steps in proper time to get the groundnut cake to our district. There is a lot of clamour for it in our district, and although the regular price is very much less, it is now selling at Rs. 15 a bag. In regard to agricultural implements, the ryots have to put in a petition to the Director of Industries at Madras. A friend was telling me the other day that he had sent about ten registered letters to the Director but that he had not received any reply. Hitherto it was the Agricultural department that was

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distributing some of the implements, but now there has been a change and we have to apply to the Director of Industries. And when we apply to him, for months together, we do not get any reply at all. This is how the ryots' needs are not met.

"I shall refer to one more thing before finishing. The tiller of the soil must feel that whatever labour he puts in, he is going to reap the benefit of it. The landlord is one man, the working labourer is another man. I would therefore suggest to the Government to socialize the land, so that whoever tills the land may get the benefit of his labour. Then only there will be inducement for the working labourer to produce more."

* THE HON. SRI O. P. RAMASWAMI REDDIYAR :—“தலைவர் அவர்களே, இவ்வளவு நேரம் அங்கத்தினர்கள் பேசிக்கொண்டிருந்தார்கள். நாம் எல்லோரும் கேட்டுக்கொண்டிருந்தோம். அரசாங்கத்தார் இது செய்யவேண்டும் அது செய்யவேண்டுமென்று சொல்லிக்கொண்டுதான் இருந்தார்கள். ஆனால் அரசாங்கத்தாரின் நிலைமையைப்பற்றி நாங்கள் சொல்லவேண்டியதாக இருக்கிறது. அநேகம் அங்கத்தினர்கள் சொல்லத்தில் முதலில் உணர்வு வேண்டும், அரசாங்கத்தார் முதலில் அதைக் கொடுக்க வேண்டுமென்றிருக்கிறார்கள். நாங்களும் கேட்கிறவர்களுக்கு சப்ளை செய்து தற்குவேண்டிய முயற்சி செய்துகொண்டுதானிருக்கிறோம்.

“இன்னும் விவசாய கருவிகள் சப்ளை செய்யப்படவேண்டுமென்று சொல்லுகிறார்கள். Ploughing implements—இதை சப்ளை செய்யவேண்டுமென்றால் இவைகளை மாகாண அரசாங்கத்தார் சப்ளை செய்யமுடியாத நிலைமையில் இருக்கிறார்கள். விவசாய கருவிகள் சப்ளை செய்வதற்கு வேண்டியது முக்கியமானது இரும்பு இருக்கிறது. நமது மாகாணத்திற்கு சாதாரணமாக சண்டைக்கு முந்தி 61,000 டன் இரும்பு தேவையாக இருந்தது. ஆனால் இப்பொழுது சண்டைக்குப் பிறகு அவர்கள் நமக்கு 31,000 ஆயிரம் டன்கள்தான் கொடுத்திருக்கிறார்கள். அதில் சென்ற வருஷத்தில் 12,000 டன்கள் விவசாயத்திற்காக இரும்புக் கருவிக்காக ஒதுக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. இந்த வருஷத்தில் நாங்கள் 16,000 டன்கள் ஒதுக்கவேண்டுமென்று சிபார்சு செய்து, ஒதுக்கி இருக்கிறார்கள். ஆனால் இதுவரையில் வந்திருப்பதைப் பார்த்தால் 15,000 டன்கள் வரவேண்டியதற்கு 4,300 டன்கள்தான் வந்திருக்கிறது. அதைக்கொண்டு நாங்கள் உங்களுக்கு மாகாணம் பூராவும் விநியோகிக்கவேண்டியதாக இருக்கிறது. இது விஷயத்தை உங்களுக்கு தெரிவிக்கவேண்டியது எங்களுடைய கடமை. ஏனென்றால் விவசாயிகளுக்கு நாங்கள் என்ன செய்திருக்கிறோம் என்பதை எடுத்துச்சொல்ல வேண்டியிருப்பதால் இதை நான் உங்களுக்கு தெரிவிக்கிறேன்.

“இதைத்தவிர உரத்தை எடுத்துக்கொள்ளுங்கள் (manure). வருஷா வருஷம் இந்த மாகாணத்தில், அல்லது இந்த வருஷத்தை எடுத்துக் கொள்ளுங்கள், உரத்திற்காக இரண்டு லட்சம் டன்கள் பிண்ணுக்கு இங்கு சேகரிக்கப்படுகிறது. ஆனால் இவ் வருஷம் அவ்வளவு சேகரிக்க முடியவில்லை. ஏனென்றால் எண்ணை வித்துக்களுக்கு control எடுக்கப்பட்டுவிட்டதால் நம் மாகாணத்திலுள்ள எண்ணை வித்துக்கள் வெளி மாகாணங்களுக்குப் போய்க்கொண்டிருக்கின்றன.”

A VOICE :—“ எவ்வளவு.”

THE HON. SRI O. P. RAMASWAMI REDDIYAR :—“அதற்கு கணக்கு சொல்லமுடியாது. வெளி மாகாணங்களில் வனஸ்பதி செய்வதற்கு அப்படி கொண்டுபோகிறார்கள். அதனால் விலை அதிகமாகி விட்டது. அதனுடைய விலைகள் 140, 160 என்று போய் இருக்கிறது. இம்மாதிரி பம்பாய், கல்கத்தா முதலிய இடங்களுக்குக் கொண்டு போய் அங்கே வனஸ்பதி உற்பத்தி செய்து அதை அதிக விலைக்கு விற்கிறார்கள். இப்படி இருக்கும்போது லட்சத்து இருபதாயிரம்,

20th September 1947]

[Sri O. P. Ramaswami Reddiyar]

முப்பதாயிரம் டன்னுக்கு உரம் சேகரிக்கும்படி எங்களுக்கு வந்திருக்கிறது. அப்படி சேகரித்து விவசாயிகளுக்கு விநியோகிக்கவேண்டும். ஆகையால் இது விஷயமும் மாகாண அரசாங்கத்தார் கையில் இல்லை. அவைகளுக்கு மறுபடியும் control ஏற்படுத்தினால் அதை ஒரு விதமாக சமாளிக்கலாம். இது விஷயம் மத்ய அரசாங்கத்தார் கையில் இருக்கிறது. அவர்களும் இதைப்பற்றி யோசித்துக்கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள், திரும்பவும் control ஏற்படுத்தலாமா வேண்டாமா என்று. அதன் பிறகு நாங்கள் சப்ளை செய்யும் நிலைமையில் இருப்போம். இதையும் நான் உங்களுக்குத் தெரிவிக்கிறேன். அப்படி தெரிவிப்பது எங்களையே கடமையாக இருக்கிறது. இப்பொழுது விலையைப்பற்றி சொல்லவேண்டியதில்லை. இதைப்பற்றி உணவு மந்திரி அவர்கள் அந்த சபையிலும் நானும் பல இடங்களிலும் பேசி இருக்கிறோம். இந்த விலையை control செய்வதும் அவர்கள் கையில் தான் இருக்கிறது. இதை அகில இந்தியாவில் உத்தேசித்து அவர்கள் இதை எந்த இடத்தில் இருக்கிறது என்று எப்பதை தெரிந்துகொண்டு இதை ஒரு விதமாகக்கொண்டு விலை நிர்ணயம் செய்திருக்கிறார்கள். விலை இருக்குவது எந்த முறையில் என்பதையும் எந்த முறையில் இருக்கினால் பரவாயில்லை என்பதையும் அவர்கள் யோசித்துக்கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். நாங்கள் நம் இஷ்டப்படி செய்ய முடியாத நிலைமையில் இருக்கிறோம். உரத்தின் விலையும் அதிகமாக இருக்கிறது. இவைகளைப்பற்றி நாங்கள் சமீபத்தில் டில்லிக்கு சென்றிருந்தபொழுது இராஜேந்திர பிரசாத் அவர்களிடம் பேசினோம். அவர்களும் இதைப்பற்றி யோசித்துக்கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். அதிக விலையாக்க வேண்டியதாக இருக்கிறது. நாங்கள் அதைச்செய்ய முடியாத நிலைமையில் இருக்கிறோம்.

“விவசாயிகளுக்கு அதிகமாக electricity விநியோகம் செய்துகொடுக்க வேண்டுமென்று சொன்னார்கள். ஆனால் இவைகளுக்கு வேண்டிய சாமான்கள் வெளி நாட்டிலிருந்து வரவேண்டியதாக இருக்கிறது. அவைகள் நம் நாட்டில் செய்வது இல்லை. அதுவும் குறிப்பாக அமெரிக்காவிலிருந்து வரவேண்டியதாக இருக்கிறது. இப்பொழுது சண்டைக்குப் பிறகு ஐரோப்பிய நாடுகள் நாசமாகி இருப்பதனால் அவர்களுக்கு முதலில் விநியோகம் செய்துவிட்டு பிறகு நமக்கு செய்வதாக இருக்கிறார்கள். அப்படி இருந்தும் நாங்கள் இரண்டு கோடி ரூபாய்க்கு நாலு மாதத்திற்கு முந்தியே அமெரிக்காவுக்கு ஆர்டர் கொடுத்திருக்கிறோம். அது இன்னும் வரவில்லை. அவைகளை இங்கு செய்வதற்கு நமக்கு வசதி இல்லை. அதனால் Electricity ஐ விநியோகம் செய்ய முடியாமலிருக்கிறோம். இவ்விதமான சிரமங்கள் இருக்கின்றன. இந்தமாதிரி காரணங்களால் அரசாங்கத்தாருக்கு எவ்வளவோ வேலைகளை செய்யவேண்டுமென்று மனம் இருந்தாலும் அதைச் செய்ய முடியாத நிலைமையில் இருக்கிறார்கள். மனம் இல்லாமல் இல்லை. வசதி இல்லாமலிருக்கிறது. அதற்கும் அரசாங்கத்தார் வசதியளிக்க வேலைசெய்துகொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். இவைகளை மனதில் வைத்துக்கொண்டு செய்கிறோம் என்று தெரிவித்துக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

“உணவு மந்திரி அவர்கள் மற்ற விஷயங்களைப்பற்றி பேசுவார்கள். நான் இத்துடன் நிறுத்திக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.”

* SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—“ Mr. President, soon after the speech of the Hon. Premier, without knowing what he said, I am unable to say what I wanted to say.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ I will tell you the substance of what he said : First he said about agricultural implements. They have to get them from the Government of India. For 31,000 tons, they got only about 4,000 tons and those 4,000 tons have to be distributed to the whole province, and so they have not been able to find enough implements to go round. Secondly, about manure, he said that last year the Government got about two lakhs of tons of cake. But this year, they were able to get only a lakh and odd, the reason being that oil seeds are being exported to other

[Mr. President] [20th September 1947]

provinces and other countries for preparation of vanaspathi and other things. The control of the oil-seeds is in the hands of the Government of India. this Government are fighting against the export and they are unable to control their export. The third thing he said was about electricity. The same difficulty was felt in this case also. Electricity requires a number of accessories, wire, transformers, etc. All these materials are not available in our country; they have to be obtained from foreign countries, and those countries are more anxious to supply these things to the other western countries that have been destroyed and damaged during the war and they will meet our demands only after the demands of those western countries are satisfied. In spite of this difficulty, the Government have already given an order for Rs. 2 crores to America for the supply of various electrical appliances; they have not yet received them; they are likely to get them very soon and as soon as they are received, the Government will go forward with their expansion programme. These were the important points, I think."

* SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—" So, I understand the Premier is rightly attacking the problem. Sir, the food problem has to be viewed from a different angle. Superficially we are thinking over it; but the entire cause for this situation is the currency problem. If we look back to the history of the currency position during the past one and a half centuries, we will find that whenever there was expansion of currency, prices had gone up and whenever currency contracted, prices had gone down. Let us see how the expansion of currency took place during the course of the last few years, ever since the war began."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I think you had better state the remedy; you need not give the history "

* SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—" I do not propose to give the history; that will take many days to say and to hear."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I thought you said you would go back into the history of currency for the last one and a half centuries."

* SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—" Sir, in the year 1940-41 about 25½ crores of currency was in circulation, i.e., before the war. In the year 1943-44, that is, about the middle of the war, it went up to Rs. 89 crores and odd. In the year 1935-36 it was only Rs. 19 crores and odd. That means that from 1935-36 to 1943-44 there has been put in circulation more than four and a half times the currency which was in the year 1935-36 and nearly three and a half times more than in the year 1940-41, i.e., the pre-war level. Correspondingly, we find a rise in prices also practically at the same rate. In the same manner, whenever there was famine in India, the currency was expanded."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" Will you give any remedy for it? "

* SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—" I am giving it just now, Sir. If the Government of India contract the currency to the pre-war level, then the prices can come down. Unless prices come down, no half-hearted measures can solve the food problem."

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It is a question of producer *versus* consumer. It is a question of rising prices *versus* purchasing-power. It was stated by the Committee formed by the Government of Madras that the cultivation expenses for an acre comes to Rs. 140 and the yield is about eleven to thirteen bags which works out nearly to the same amount. No ordinance or any such thing will be effective. I hope that everybody will agree if I say that every Government has to see not the rule of law but the moral sanction of the people behind their actions. When we want to bring about a thorough change in the food procurement, we must not be thinking of force always. In that way, we cannot tackle this problem.

“ Then, coming to the question of statutory as well as informal rationing, I am of opinion that this rationing should be done away with. My hon. Friend, Mr. Narayana Menon, said that in deficit districts like Malabar, rationing is working well and that it should be continued. In my own district I can say that nobody is taking this eight ounces ration. We find more rations in Government officers' houses and less in labourers' houses. Normally, the labourer is taking on the average more quantity than what he gets in the ration shops. So, he gets the extra quantity through the black-market. Therefore, if you want to get more grain, then you must do away with all these controls and fixing of price levels. If only you remove all controls and remove rationing, you will see what takes place. Then you will have plenty of rice. I come from a taluk in West Godavari, the Tadepalligudem taluk, which supplies a large quantity of boiled rice to Malabar. If only rationing and control are removed, Malabar will be fed by a taluk like Tadepalligudem and can supply all its boiled rice to Malabar. So, remove these controls, these restrictions, this rationing and this artificial method of feeding the people. Let there be free trade. Let the producer get as much as he wants.

“ The Malabar people have got a large purchasing power because there is no control over the prices of coconuts that are being exported and they get any price they want but they want to control the price of paddy. So, Sir, my suggestion to the Madras Government is that they should forthwith press upon the Central Government to contract the currency so that the country's economy may go back to its pre-war level. A few monied people may be affected by this contraction of the currency but it will gradually reduce the prices of all commodities. So, I say remove all controls, allow free trade so that normal pre-war conditions may prevail once again. That is the only way to feed the hungry mouths. Sir, I cannot say that production is less. It is not correct. The facts gathered by our Food Minister are all supplied to him by the village committees and the village karnams and so on and they are absolutely false. I challenge the Government on this. Let him come along with me and let us see 'A' registers and the 'B' registers prepared by those village committees. Let us have an enquiry. Then, you will find that there is much greater production. The tendency of the village committees and the village karnams is to show that there is less production by a preparation of false accounts. The Food Minister himself had admitted in his

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statement that this has been the tendency of the village committees. So, Sir, basing the information on false accounts, the Food Minister comes up and says that there is a great deficit in this Province and hungry mouths have to be fed and so on. Since there is a growing nervousness about this shortage every day, the ryot keeps back his produce and is unwilling to part with it for the controlled price. There is enough stock in every village and in every district. My hon. Friend, Mr. Muthuranga Mudaliyar, said that it is always the small ryot who keeps back the rice in order to get better advantages. Unfortunately, I am sorry to say that the position is the reverse. We find that 89 per cent of the rice producers in this Province are small patta-holders. They hold lands ranging from five acres to fifteen acres. Only 11 per cent of the pattadars are holders of lands extending from 15 acres to 50 acres. So, in a campaign against hoarding, we have to deal not with the small ryot but only with the big producer. The small producer is also hoarding because he has not got much money to spend for his agricultural purposes. Secondly, he has also got to pay for his other foodgrains at a very high rate. So, he is following the foot-steps of the big ryot in holding stocks and only releasing them through the channels of black-market so that he may get a very high price. If we are to tackle this biggest problem of procurement, even an ordinance may be issued by the Madras Government that persons owning more than twenty acres of land should surrender all their surplus paddy directly from the fields and the village karnam should be asked to give details of such persons. If rationing is to be continued, if controls are to be kept intact, these severe measures must be taken up to find out the actual production.

“Again, Sir, some people say that Government should not use any force in the matter of procurement. Certainly no Government can carry on without using force at one time or other. Government means force. If you cannot use force, then you can wind up the Government. All law is enforced by the use of force, at the point of bayonet. So, I advise the Prime Minister that force must be used. I only want that that force should be used throughout the Province so that all the stocks may be got by the Government.

“Again, as far as production is concerned, I would like to say one or two things. In my own district, a decade back, there was a scheme called the Venkatachari Scheme for the rotation of crops in the West Godavari district. The scheme was prepared when he was Executive Engineer in that area. He advocated a second-crop rotation, and every three years, a portion of the land is to have a second crop.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“You want that scheme to be resuscitated. The Hon. Minister may please note that scheme.”

* SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—“I want that scheme wholly, Sir. Every land should have a second crop every year. The District Collector says, we cannot give you more land for second crop because we cannot supply you more water. So, there is a fight going on between the Executive Engineer, the District Collector and Fort St. George. In between, the poor ryot is

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suffering. If the District Collector had given permission, thousands and thousands of acres would be yielding a second crop. There is no question of *laissez faire* in such a thing. I wish the Government issue such orders to the District Collector and the Executive Engineer in proper time to enable the ryot to grow a second crop. More acreage should be given for this second crop. There is plenty of water and there is no scarcity. If we give a chance to the ryot and give him the responsibility to produce the second crop, I am sure there is bound to be an increase in the production. With these words, I resume my seat."

* THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" Sir, I am intervening in this debate because some of the matters spoken on this subject related to such things as manure. The Hon. the Prime Minister has made the point clear and I am only giving you some more details in regard to the difficulties that we are suffering from. It is true that there is no use pointing out the difficulties and that Government have to find a solution for all those difficulties. Government will certainly call for the assistance of all hon. Members in the solution of the difficulties they are experiencing, with regard to matters such as manure, etc.

" Firstly, with regard to groundnut-cake, we were able to procure 2;20 lakhs of tons last year. On an average, we have been producing this amount during the last four years. I should also like to point out that the average production of groundnut cake in this Province before the war was about 2;2 lakhs of tons. This year also we expect to procure the same quantity as procurement so far has not been worse than the procurement for the corresponding period last year. I want to tell the House that the acreage for paddy is about ten million acres. So, the quantity of groundnut-cake that is available is very small to meet the needs of the area under cultivation. Groundnut-cake is being used as a manure in almost all the districts and unless the production of groundnut is more intense, it is impossible to provide groundnut-cake as a manure. More than twenty-five districts are using this manure and three or four bags are being used for each acre and it is difficult to find this quantity. It is all too easy to suggest that the ryots in the fertile deltaic areas do not require so much of this manure. But, I may say that it is not easy to restrict the demand that comes from all the districts.

" Added to this, it is the Government of India that removed the control of the movement of groundnut kernel. The law does not permit the Government of Madras to impose control, but only the Government of India can do it. We represented the matter to Rajen Babu when he came here last and told him, for Heaven's sake, give us back the control over movement of groundnut kernel and we will give you all the oil that is extracted from the kernel, because we only want groundnut-cake and nothing more. It would give us 8½ lakhs of tons of groundnut-cake, but unfortunately, though he was much impressed with our argument and promised that so far as this year was concerned, he would consider the matter favourably, it did not materialise. Of course, I do not accuse Rajen Babu or the Government of India. But other considerations

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as valid as he heard from us have made him say that he could not agree to remove the movement of groundnut kernel. That is the position with regard to groundnut-cake we are labouring under. (Sri B. Narayanaswami Nayudu : ' Kernel may be exported under certain conditions. ') Out of the kernel exported outside India a good deal of it from Kurnool is going through Orissa to Burma and other places clandestinely and it is difficult to get back the cake when the kernel goes.

" With regard to green manure, the only solution is to increase the production of green manure and we hope by the drive we are trying, we will be able to increase production by the end of this year and supply the necessary quantity of green manure. At least by the end of next year there will be increased production. Of course, it is not easy to increase production all of a sudden in a month or two; it will take some time. (Sri B. Narayanaswami Nayudu : Interruption.) In regard to that the Director of Agriculture thinks otherwise. Between the two, I do not know which is correct because I know precious little about the matter. But, I will certainly say that in Godavari they were never using groundnut-cake up to three years ago and if only they would follow the old method of not using groundnut-cake it will relieve our position a good deal.

" Coming to the question of iron and steel implements, apart from the difficulties which the Hon. the Prime Minister has stated, another very serious difficulty has come to us. Till January 1947 the Agricultural Department was ordering and getting the steel and iron quota for agricultural purposes direct from the dealers. The Government of India permitted the Agricultural Department to place their orders direct on the dealers of iron and steel and we were asked to place our orders with the Tata Company for the supply of steel to the various producers in the districts. But, in January 1947, the Government of India thought that the normal trade channels should not be interfered with and took away that power from the Agricultural Department and said that iron and steel could be dealt with only by registered stock-holders and not by the Agricultural Department. The result has landed us in a most ridiculous position. It was explained in the Assembly the other day that a cultivator, a poor villager from Coimbatore, wanted two cart-tyres, but unfortunately the procedure he had to follow was to go to the Agricultural Demonstrator for a permit for purchasing his requirements and with that permit he has to go to Madras, meet the Controller of Iron and Steel and the Director of Industries, who will open up his stock register and find whether any such stock was available. In the case in question, he found there was no steel at all with any of the stock-holders in Coimbatore and so he gave him a permit to a dealer in Bezwada or Nellore. Imagine the position of the poor cultivator in such circumstances. The man came to me—I do not exactly remember his name—and told me, Sir, I cannot take a pair of cart-tyres in an ordinary passenger train to my place because the consignment could not be taken in the compartment but I have to take it only by a goods train and that it was too small a consignment for booking by the goods train. What is his remedy? Then, when I

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went to Delhi, I told the Minister for Industries, spoke to Rajen Babu about the difficulties and also spoke to the various Secretaries of the Departments concerned, but they did not agree because they wanted the normal trade channels should continue, but I think they have agreed to relax it informally. We have written officially again that the old practice of January 1947 may be resumed. So, what little quantity we have we will be able to supply to the agriculturists. That is the present position we are labouring under since the new policy of the Government of India came into force. As the Hon. the Prime Minister has stated out of the quota of 31,000 tons we have set apart 16,000 tons for agricultural purposes. Besides, there are the housing and various other schemes which require iron and steel and they are also pressing upon us. So, this is the position regarding the 4,000 tons of steel we have and I have also explained the difficulties we are labouring under. You may of course ask the question, why don't you ask the Government of India? But, if you look to our correspondence with them in the matter, you will know that we are not keeping quiet but have been writing again and again. In fact, we have even made personal representations and every one of us when we went to Delhi have been pressing the matter. I do not at all charge the Government of India. They have their own difficulties to deal with and in such difficulties we have to adjust ourselves to the position.

“ This Grow More Food Campaign, I agree, can succeed only if we agree to supply manure, implements, etc., to the ryots. This is again a vicious circle. My hon. friend, Dr. Tajuddin, suggested a remedy, namely, to reduce the area under cultivation of commercial crops like groundnut. After all you want groundnut-cake for fodder and manure. Now the area under cultivation of groundnut is not very appreciable that it can be stopped. (The Hon. Sri O. P. Ramaswami Reddiyar : ‘ It is only half a million acres.’) The Hon. Prime Minister says that the total area under groundnut cultivation is only half a million acres. (Dr. Syed Tajuddin Sahib Bahadur : ‘ What about tobacco and other commercial crops? ’) In regard to these, I have got figures but have not brought them now because I did not anticipate this. In Guntur where tobacco is grown, I am told, no other crops are generally grown. So, what is the use of asking the people to stop cultivation of tobacco when they cannot grow anything else and allow the land to remain fallow. Similarly is the case in regard to sugarcane which is another commercial crop. Dr. Tajuddin says everything can be made into starch and the amount of concentrated starch can be increased. In regard to sugarcane the area has not appreciably increased. Again, when I went to Malabar my friends asked me to stop the extension of tapioca cultivation there. If actually people can go with me to Calicut and see the market there in the mornings they will find that hills of tapioca are sold away in half-an-hour. The people there live only on two pieces of tapioca and two sardines a day. So, Sir, the cry for commercial crop is more a cry of despair. It is perhaps a feeling of jealousy because a man who grows commercial crops gets more. My hon.

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friends Mr. Narayana Rao and Govindacharyulu spoke about coconut cultivation in Malabar. I may tell them that nothing else is grown there because the land there is sandy. Also I may tell them that the average production of paddy in Malabar is not even three times the seed in the coastal areas and after all three times the seed is not sufficient to meet the cost of cultivation and the cost of seed, so that if you don't agree to the cultivation of coconut nothing else can be grown there. Of course, we have no objection to the removal of control on coconut and we shall be glad also if the paddy grower gets more price for it. You cannot imagine the plight of the men in Malabar with 8 oz. of rice and I know what it is there. There is no meaning in getting angry because they are growing coconut and we get a price for it. That is because nothing else can be grown there. (Sri A. Govindacharyulu: 'You have got purchasing power.')

"I have one or two words more, Sir. Dr. Tajuddin said 'do not use cowdung for fuel purposes.' I entirely agree that it should be used only for purposes of manure. I may point out in this connection that 10 lakhs of tons of firewood are being consumed every year for the last four years to make 2 lakhs of tons of charcoal for our buses and lorries to run. At this rate I do not know where our forests are going to be within a short time. Friends both in this House and in the other House asked me 'why don't you cut away the forests and grow paddy.' This can be done only if you can get a few gallons more of petrol for buses and lorries and then the fuel problem can be solved. The fuel problem for the poor man is a big one and you cannot find fault with him if he uses the cowdung. It is again a vicious circle. (Dr. Syed Tajuddin Sahib: 'What about the urine?') The average cultivator with a few heads of cattle does not know how to preserve urine? In some cases they put the cattle in bounds in the fields themselves and collect the urine there alone where they can conveniently collect the dung also. We are trying our best to advise them. I may say that in regard to urine they know the manurial value of urine more than any of us.

"Many things have been said about the producers-cum-consumers co-operative societies in Malabar and even my friend Mr. Narayana Menon referred to he matter. Here I can tell you this much. They have been working only for a year and they have had experience of business for generations. So far as they are concerned they have not done worse than before. About 36 wholesale dealers are in Malabar and what they were doing is being done now by 107 co-operative societies. The number of share-holders in these societies come to 8½ lakhs. I want to impress upon this House that the profits of these societies now goes to 8½ lakhs, i.e., about one-fifth of the population of the whole district and so it is not easy to find fault with what they have been doing only for a year. Of course they have done well in a year and I am sure they will do better later. I only wanted to make the position clear in regard to the matter.

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" In regard to doing away with informal rationing, I wish to say that many of us do not know that it is not meant for the cultivator. I know it because I come from a dekant district. There are people who are not agriculturists and there are other people who have nothing to do with paddy at all. It is meant for people who are not agriculturists themselves. If you take away informal rationing, it is the labourers who will suffer seriously. If you do not mistake me, if you simply take away rationing when the supply is not equal to the demand it will be dangerous in my opinion."

* K. UPPI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Mr. President, Sir, I do not propose to detain the House long because we have been hearing suggestions and criticisms of all sorts in this House for the last many hours. On one point we have made our position clear on the floor of this House on a similar question last year, that we will co-operate with the Government in the matter of food whatever may be our views with regard to other matters concerning the Government of this Province. With regard to food we will co-operate with the Government to get out of this terrible difficulty in which we are all in. Sir, we cannot but admire the anxiety of the Food Minister and of the Prime Minister to tide over this difficulty. Sir, I cannot personally refrain from paying tribute to them for the yeomen services that they are doing to save the lives of millions of this Province. But I might say that they have stepped in the shoes of those who have left a legacy with them under which they are now labouring. The Food Minister, I am constrained to say, had given out then his mind on the floor of this House when the discussion was going on. Even in those days he realized what was ahead of us if the policy which the then Government was pursuing was to be continued. Sir, I know, and he as a cultivator himself, knows the state of affairs of poor cultivators. He warned the Government of the difficulties which they would have to meet later on if the policy they were pursuing was pursued. Let me be a little egoistic also. On the floor of this House from this same ground I warned that Government should not carry on experiments at that stage. I said, that it was true that the co-operative societies were good, the village committees were desirable. We would start all these experiments when we tide over the danger in which we were placed. But the Government did not heed to our proposals. Sir, they went on with their experiments. These co-operative societies were hatched within 24 or 48 hours though there was no hurry for such an experiment. The hurry was to save the lives of people, to ward off the famine but the then Government wanted to experiment with this and now unfortunately or fortunately they are not here to reap as they had sown. Sir, first in Malabar as it is far away from Madras City, the seat of Government, these co-operative societies were experimented and our voices were not heard here but when the same was experimented nearer to Madras, in Andhradesa, the Government could not sit in their places. They had to go out. But these evils however are still there in Malabar. My Hon. friend Mr. Madhava

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Menon was saying highly about these co-operative societies. I would request the Government to appoint an impartial committee or an official of high rank and position to go and enquire into the conditions. What are the condition of these societies? Yesterday on the floor of the House the Food Minister himself told us that he had received thousands of complaints. What happened is this. In the place of human agencies the Government brought men machines. Now the present position of most of those machines is that the conductors and drivers are warming themselves at the heat of the boilers. They do not look after the engine. I am afraid if one of the societies failed, the whole machinery may come to a deadlock. As the human aspect was removed and these are mere machines all difficulties and drawbacks of all artificial machineries are there now. A few societies may be working without much complaint but what with regard to the others? For the last one year in one society they made about Rs. 30 or 40 thousand profit and the whole profit is debited either to the Manager, President, Secretary or some other person connected. There is no money anywhere. It is all debited or credited to the account of the manager or other official. Pilfering and black-marketing are rampant. In Calicut City, some persons have been caught redhanded for taking things from the societies' buildings. This news appear in the press for one or two days and there is much noise made, afterwards nothing is heard about this and the whole thing is hushed up. What has happened nobody knows. That is the position. However, let me say it is not proper for the Government at this juncture when we are in a critical position to think of another experiment. Till we tide over the food crisis let us not get rid of the societies also. That will mean another experiment. Having said all this, I say let us continue with the societies, and try to improve them. But at the same time take steps to bring back private agencies also. Thus it will be possible to bring back private trade channels at an early date.

“Then with regard to the village committees. These were organized with the best of intentions to co-operate the villagers in this food problem. But these committees instead of being a help have become an impediment for rationing or improving the cultivation. Most of them are a menace to the ryots. I had said, these should not be considered as appellate bodies. If you look into that paper which the Government had issued these village committees were to be appellate bodies against the decision of village karnams and I said even then that they were most unsuited for his work. The assessment of crop can be done only after 15 to 20 days of flowering when they become grain and after 15 or 20 days more we have to harvest. The karnam assesses the crops and communicates the same to the ryot and then the ryot if he has any grievance may appeal to the village committee. It will be at least one month by that time and if the ryot were to leave all the paddy to remain in the land itself, for the village committee to go and assess and hear his appeal, he will then have to reap instead of grains, grass or hay. My hon. Friend, the Food Minister, said on the floor of the House yesterday that he is receiving thousands of complaints about the working of the co-operative societies.

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"I would now like to refer to the statement of the Food Minister that Government propose to give up informal rationing."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—"It is only a suggestion."

* K. UPPI SAHIB BAHADUR :—"I was merely feeling nervous about it. We are living in a deficit district in Malabar. We have to depend for our food on imports from other areas. If you give up rationing in the surplus areas, then what will be the way in which Government will feed us. That is the question. After coming here and learning that it is only a suggestion put for our opinion, I am somewhat relieved. I hope the Government and the Food Minister will take action in regard to this only after very careful consideration."

"I say that as early as possible these village committees should be done away with for they are instead of being a benefit are a menace to the villages. Nobody seems to have any real control over them."

"With regard to the procurement in our district, your officials and petty officers are very harsh towards the poor ryots. I can tell you my personal experience. When I was walking away from my village near another village, some of the ryots came up and it was just after harvest. I made enquiries of them about their crop."

MR. PRESIDENT :—"It was last year and we are not concerned with it. This year they might have improved."

* K. UPPI SAHIB BAHADUR :—"It was harvesting season they said that their crop was not quite alright but apart from that they added that they had not got one grain of rice or paddy in their house. The procuring officers had come and carried every grain away. So they had not even a grain for their next year's seed. They did not lie because there was no reason for them to lie to me, as they were not my tenants. Because I had gone there they just came to see me and during our conversation that happened. They were half-a-dozen people. I may refer to the Malabar forests. These forest people used to have their own grain by cultivation in the forest. In Wynaad taluk there was no punam cultivation last year because the procurement officers in their haste carried away everything and they were given instead ration cards and even if they had the cards they could get rice only with great difficulty. The Kurichians of Wynaad did not have any punam cultivation. So also in Kottayam taluk where about 2 to 3 thousand tons of paddy or 5 or 6 lakhs of local measures were produced annually by this punam cultivation, this year there was not even 10 per cent of that because of the harassment of the procurement officials. Two years ago the procurement officials seized every grain of these poor people and terrorised them. By this I do not mean to suggest that there should be a relaxation in regard to procurement; that is very dangerous. What I am concerned with is that the cultivators should not be harassed and terrorised. Because on account of the harassment, food production will be seriously interfered with."

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" Now, Sir, a suggestion was made on the question of killing of cattle. I fear it will be a dangerous problem. If you allow all the cattle and sheep to thrive, what will be our position; already, they are struggling for existence for want of fodder.

" Government tried last year to procure coconuts and there was control on its movement. What was the result? Large quantities of coconuts were lying idle in Malabar and literally they were decaying but people here were crying for coconuts. Why? Because they could not be sent to this place except through a permit and so the prices went up to twelve annas and fourteen annas each. So control is not all that is required.

" I am one with you in thinking that however much you may raise your prices, if there is a lag between supply and demand, the prices will go on rising. For that the area under cultivation must be extended; forest lands must be brought under cultivation consistent with their influences upon seasonal conditions. Cultivation of tobacco and other money crops should not be put a stop to, but the factors that stand in the way of rice cultivation, namely, the question of prices and harassment by the procurement officials should be removed. I had personal talks with ordinary cultivators but while they realise that it is a food-crop which they must have for sustaining themselves and their families, yet they take to other crops. When I asked, one and all of them say 'I wish to grow paddy; but if I raise it, it is just like possessing gun powder, something like possessing an unlicensed weapon; the police are at our doors.' They are even prepared to take their requirements from ration shops though it would mean their spending a little more. They are afraid of house searches and other harassment by the officials; but if they grow other crops they get better prices and also avoid harassment. So the two things that stand in the way of improved production are uneconomic prices and harassment by officials. The wages are now five or six times what they were previously. My hon. friend told us last year in plain words that the price which we are giving is not economical—I am glad that this time the Government have taken us into confidence on the floor of the House and have told us where we stand and what their difficulty is. We, on our part, realize their difficulty and do not wish to embarrass them. I am bringing it to their notice that the Government of India's stand on the question of fixation of prices is the first sign or the first instalment of the sort of provincial autonomy which we are going to get. You see it from this how it is sought to be controlled, in even a matter which concerns internal adjustment. I do not wish to keep the House waiting to hear the Leader of the House. My hon. Friend Mr. Madhava Menon knows about conditions in Malabar cultivation and am sure he will see that punam cultivation is encouraged and the harvest collected with the least harassment in the matter of procurement."

* THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Mr. President, that this debate has had the desired effect is a thing which I want to bring to the notice of the House. The intention of Government was to

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draw the pointed attention of the legislators of both the Houses, the people of this country and press to the grave situation that is facing us and that is why we wanted to make a full and complete statement of all the facts that were available with the Government with a view to gather all the necessary strength that we require in this very difficult campaign. Facts can be distilled to the following two or three points; we are not having enough food. We are not producing enough food—that is the second point. That is a fact which all of us have realized and I am sure this House has also realized. If we do not produce all that we want, the next point that arises is: how else could we get this deficit made up? This deficit has all along been supplied from abroad and that has stopped. In our estimate, we expected that according to the basic plan, this would be made up by the Government of India by their sending the deficit quota to us. Just as we are half way through the year, or nearly towards the end of it, we are made aware of the fact that they are not in a position to give that extra grain that we want. They have certain reasons of their own. They pleaded that there is shortage of food all over the world that there are not enough means of communication and that the International Emergency Food Council is the body that regulates the movement of foodgrain all over the world. I can assure you that in placing the case before the Council, they have made their representation quite strongly and with vehemence. But even there the Government of India have not been successful.

“The whole scheme of rationing in the Province is calculated with reference to the available sources wherefrom we could gather our grains.’ We calculate the number of people whom we have got to feed and the number to whom it is to be distributed and in that plan we always provide for stocks of what we call the buffer stock and on the strength of that, we regulate the movement of foodgrains from district to district. That is why we do not distribute in the surplus districts straightaway; that would be wrong. We gather all the grains from the surplus areas and calculate what they would require and arrangements are made to move the surplus to nearby areas, the charges on transport being kept at as low a minimum as possible. That is the principle underlying the food movement by Government. Seasons vary from district to district; crop conditions differ and the harvesting also differs from district to district. Having all the factors into consideration, the Madras Government now control the whole situation by keeping a stock of grains in the centre by providing what we call a buffer stock which is to adjust inequalities in the requirements and distribution. I want this fundamental position to be accepted that after calculating the amount required we base our procurement. I want to inform the House that we arrive at our figures after we get full information on the food available from reports from the districts. I want to clear a misapprehension; once our target figures are fixed, it is not as if we stick to it. I can tell you that the target figures are lowered or increased according to the weather conditions: if on account of inclement weather, crops are damaged, the figures

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are lowered. For instance in the Circars a cyclone broke out in the middle of the procurement season and the target that we had fixed had necessarily to be lowered. In cases where conditions were better and there was increased production, we had necessarily to increase the figures according to the increased production. We do not act on the basis of a certain unalterable and fixed figure at all; our figures vary with the amount of produce in the country and procurement also varies in proportion to the production. I want to assure the House that we do not take away all the available food in our procurement campaign. It has been said that a lot of mistakes had been committed and there has been a tyranny in the matter of procurement. I am prepared to admit that there may be some mistakes and some hardship caused here and there. Having said that, I want to assure the House that the procurement figures do not work so high. The total procurement of this Province has so far been only 23.5 per cent. It means this that as much as over 76 per cent of the total food produced has been left behind. Of the target we have received only 23 per cent. I will tell you how it is left behind. I want once and for all the public to understand how these procurement figures are arrived at. There are four primary conditions to procurement. The first is to leave enough with the producer for his food. The second is to leave enough of foodgrains with the producer to enable him to cultivate in the next year. The third is to leave enough grains to be given in the form of wages to all those employed by him in the agricultural operations till the next year. These three conditions, namely, food for himself, food for his labourers, and seed for his next harvest, to leave some margin for his living have to be satisfied. This is how it is exactly arranged. Over 76 per cent is left behind deliberately to enable the producer to have a happy existence, and not be tyrannized. It is not the intention of Government to tyrannize nor do they do it. It may be that this ratio affects people differently. It may be that a rich man is not perhaps affected to the same extent as the small producer. That there is a certain amount of hardship to the small producer should be admitted, but the whole thing is an universal one based upon the maximum procurement. Nobody should starve. At least a minimum quantity of food should be made available for existence. That is what we are doing. When we leave as much as 76 per cent with the producers, people state 'do you think people live only on so much?' The challenge was made in this House. I know that we deliberately leave behind so much food in the country. It is on that food the country is to-day fed. These people did not die of starvation because of the margin that we have left behind. But, even so, if people take much beyond their margin and swallow more than their quota, then comes the difficulty. Having denuded ourselves of all sources of food income, from abroad, from the Government of India, and from our own sources from a chronically deficit Province, it is a huge problem for any Government to feed this population. That is why, even three months ago, we almost felt that a crisis was coming. Three months ago I and the Food Secretary had prolonged discussions with the

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Government of India on this question of deficit. The Government of India were no doubt very sympathetic, but beyond expressing their sympathy, they expressed their inability to give. They said 'we are expecting so much from other places; as soon as the expected quantity is received, we will be able to deliver to you.' That is all they could say. All their arrangements with regard to price control, according to me, is to enable them to get all available foodstuffs from all over the world so that they may be distributed to us. That is what they are doing. I absolve the Government of India of all charges laid on them. They are helping us, but the only complaint that we have to make is that they are not helping us in the way in which we want them to do. That is where our difficulty comes. I will give you an example. The Government of India get food from Siam at so much rate per ton. This is a much higher figure than what we would pay for the food in this country. But what I want you to remember is this. Whatever may be the price in Siam or in Burma for the food, the Government of India pay, the price of food that comes to us here is maintained at the same level. This Rs. 8 and odd paid is the price that we pay; but we are not asked to pay to the Government of India all the excesses that they are paying out of their own pocket. Whatever the Government of India pay they forego from their own funds and they give to us at a standard rate. That is one great advantage of this pooling, which the Government of India are doing on our behalf. We have got to depend on the Government of India. If friends should ask us, when the Government of India pay so much there, why not this Government pay such rates, it is because the Government of India have got to pay the rates demanded by other countries to get the grains they require. Therefore it does not necessarily follow that we should also claim such a higher price. What we should understand is that we get our grains at the same price, whatever may be the price paid by the Government of India. This is the point which I would like to impress very clearly. In that way, the Government of India last year have paid from their own resources over Rs. 100 crores for food. That is to say, the Provinces have shared the benefit of that Rs. 100 crores according to the quota they have received. But that does not prevent the Government of India to regulate our prices according to the level of commodity prices. That is my complaint against them. We simply say that whatever may be the difficulty, the prices of all the materials which the agricultural labourers require for raising food are not commensurate with the needs of the industry in which they are engaged. Our argument, therefore, is that the agricultural labourer must be paid more. Not that he must be paid more or less than what he demands, but it is to preserve the industry, which keeps the nation alive, we must find the resources to meet his expenses. Leave alone profit; the expenses of agriculture have gone up by leaps and bounds. As a matter of fact, I may tell you, from Rs. 50 (average cost of cultivating an acre with paddy), it has now gone up to Rs. 155 and Rs. 160. The agriculturist has to get something about that figure to keep the

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industry, not as a losing concern, but just going on. In fact, my own village situation is this. The Government of India should come to our help in this way. I am simply making an illustration. Supposing, they raise the price to three times its cost. What should be done, on the other hand, is to raise the price of all other articles he requires to three times, so that the articles he requires will be got at the same level as the price that he gets for his food. That is the proposition which I have suggested already to the Government of India. Then there is the other point. Who should bear the increase in price? This is the concern of the Government of India as well as of every one of us here. If by any inflation, the whole burden falls upon the consumer, who is unfortunately not a producer, who is to bear the increase? We have a charge upon us to feed our fellowmen by some method. The method is this. We should give him the necessary things at as low a price as possible. No country could run on allowing the foodstuffs to be inflated in price. The whole food economy will then be blasted. The Government of India are very particular that the consumers' price should not be increased. Here comes the question of bonus. The bonus is not a price. That is what I want every one to clearly understand. The bonus is a bounty given from the State coffers to the producer because he is not given enough. That is the real meaning of bonus. The reaction of giving a bonus on the minds of the people, every Government has to consider. We go on giving bonus after bonus. It was done last year. We have done it to a small extent this year also. You can all understand the impossibility of any Government to dole out 11, 12, 13 or 14 crores of rupees as bonus at the end of a year, and to continue this unrestricted bonus year after year. Therefore, it is not an economic proposition to go on granting bonus from State finances. I know it keeps down the price. But we will be liquidating our finances year after year. If out of a revenue of forty crores of rupees, 10, 11, 12 or 13 crores of rupees are given away as bonus, what will be left over? What do you expect this Government to do? That is the position which I would like all the legislators to consider. Increase of wages, increase of salaries of schoolmasters, Government servants, etc., have all to be met by the State. If commodity prices go up, the price of foodgrains also go up. Again, therefore, the danger comes. Increase of commodity prices means an increase of dearness allowance. Mills and industries will have to pay enormously more dearness allowance. The result will be that the industries come to a standstill. (Sri B. Naravanaswami Navudu : 'Four lakhs of people.') Don't you argue about organized labour. There are larger number of poor people than we imagine, and not all of them are engaged in agriculture. Detailed statement has already been given of agricultural labourers, but what about the majority of non-industrial labour? (Sri A. Gopalakrishnavya : 'Including officials.') I am not thinking so much of officials. We are husbanding our resources in a most economic manner. We have allowed two ounces extra in the case of City people, and four ounces extra in the case of villages,

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of other food articles which they are not accustomed to. Just imagine how we have imported potatoes from the Nilgiris and distributed to the ration shops. It cost us $6\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs of rupees for two and a half months to get potatoes from the Nilgiris and issue it to the ration shops at controlled rates. In every attempt we make to provide food, we have got to lose so many lakhs of rupees. When once we control the prices, we have to pay cartage for conveying the articles, etc. In the Nilgiris the price of potatoes was Rs. 29 per ton before we requisitioned and after requisitioning, it was Rs. 33.

“ And now the complaint is, the Government do not take much interest in it. You should remember, that when once the State begins to interfere there is no limit to the demands made on them. If every man acts with a sense of patriotism there will be no trouble. The man who has enough, who produces enough does not think of the other man in the country; and what will happen is, what happened in Bengal will happen. Fortunately for us, here, the State took prompt action to tide over the difficult situation.

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“ Another thing that is said against us, is, that we are not to take any action to prevent the tale narrated by Mr. Narayanaswami Naidu, i.e., about the poor people carrying headloads of grains in trains. I know that food does not come from America, Africa, or Bengal or Bombay. It comes only from the surplus areas. This surplus grain is due to the Government of the province. The food policy of the Government does not allow a man to sell his paddy as he likes. What he produces belongs to the State. Therefore I insist that he should hand over his surplus to the State. But I do not ask him to give for nothing. I pay him his price, and I pay him also a bonus. So if he carried on headloads of paddy from one capitalist to another capitalist, Government would not be simply looking on. To that extent it is all stolen paddy. It does not belong to the man who purchases it; and that is why we interfere, and that is why we are stopping such traffic. It has come to the stage where railway running has become impossible. Because the communication chain is every time pulled near the railway station, the train is stopped till all headloads of grain are removed. This is what is happening in the Andhra districts, in Kistna district and in Guntur district. These things cannot be allowed to go on. I am told, this is all poor man's food, and should be allowed to go on. I say, it is impossible. No organized Government which has taken charge of food can allow this kind of thing to go on.”

MR. PRESIDENT:—“ I suppose we can finish the business and then rise.”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“ Yes. I am sorry to say most of the figures given by Mr. Narayanaswami Naidu are incorrect. I fear they have been taken from somewhere at random. In saying that, he wants us to think that Tamil districts have been shown favouritism, and that the charge is levelled against Andhra districts. It is on that score I say these figures are not

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correct. I am telling you this, for, I have before me the figures relating to the three districts of Chingleput, South Arcot and Trichinopoly, to which he referred. The target fixed for Chingleput this year is 71,700 tons; the total procurement from 1st November 1946 to 28th August 1947 has been 57,203 tons leaving a balance or 14,497 tons. With regard to South Arcot, 88,200 tons was the target fixed, out of which 56,094 tons have been secured, and there is still a balance of 32,106 tons to be procured."

SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—" May I request the Hon. Minister to give the several figures for all the districts? "

* THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Yes, I am coming to that. With regard to Trichinopoly, the total target fixed is 65,600 tons, out of which 31,198 tons have been procured."

SRI B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU :—" Please give the correct figures."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Yes. There is nothing secret about it. You will find them published every fortnight in the gazette. And you will find that Chingleput and Trichinopoly are deficit districts. The only Tamil district which is a surplus district is Tanjore. But in the Northern Circars we have five surplus districts; and these five surplus areas have not surrendered their paddy according to their quota. It is this which brings about a deficit in food in the province which is not at all satisfactory. Therefore it is I say, procurement in Andhra districts is not satisfactory. It is not because of any political differences I say this. We are going on facts. There is nothing like Andhra or Tamil about this question. It is all based on figures. And the figures are based on the amount of land cultivated the amount produced and the amount wanted by the ryot for his sustenance. In saying this there is nothing wrong. We are stating absolute facts. So there is nothing Andhra or Tamil about it. Therefore we are bound to adopt all energetic measures to secure what is our demand from surplus areas. The mere fact that headloads of paddy are carried stealthily from one place to another prove the fact, which I have already said, that there is surplus food due to the Government from those districts. If all that surplus food had been secured we could tide over the scarcity. We give bonus; we go to the village to procure; we take the people into confidence and we expect them to respond honestly and fairly. In that way we tried for the last two months, because there was no food coming from the Government of India and from outside; and so we have to fall back on the stock of food inside the province itself. In such circumstances, what is it that we should do? We know, 75 per cent of the food is still inside our own province; and so we want to procure all that available food. We do not want to be harsh towards anybody. Now the temptation of the people is to kick the offer of bonus, because the price we offer is not commensurate with the price they could get otherwise. Now when we talk of famine, people become nervous. Then are we to keep quiet? So we have

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invested the procurement officers with all the powers necessary. We go out from district to district telling people of the true situation."

SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—" But are the figures of Government correct? "

* THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" I cannot but accept them to be correct. You cannot say the figures furnished by the several officers are wrong. You cannot say the Board of Revenue which collects these figures is wrong. It is a challenge against the agency I employ. Once more I say, if I am in the wrong with regard to the figures, whoever prevented you, Sir, from giving me the correct figures. Nobody prevented you from doing that. I have got a particular agency employed to collect figures. It is up to you to furnish correct figures, if I am in the wrong."

(Sri A. Govindacharyulu rose to interrupt.)

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I do not think the hon. Member is quite right in pursuing his remark about 'figures'."

* THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" You have not provided me with figures, which you think are correct. You have not done that. And when you have not done that I have to take the figures furnished by the Government agency. There are so many opportunities given to the cultivator. He is asked to declare his stock; he is asked to declare his requirements; he is asked to declare his seeds. We have given all that margin to the cultivator. And if after all these things he does not give, we still give him a chance to refute our figures."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I do not think the Hon. Minister need labour on that point."

* THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Because it has been constantly repeated that Government figures are wrong I have tried to say all this; so that that sort of thing may not be repeated at least hereafter. In computing our figures we take great pains and it is after great caution the final figure is arrived at. That is why we say we are quite correct in our figures; and you should not say, they are wrong. All Government go on figures only. They are collected to enable the administration to be run on fairly accurate and scientific lines. And it is only my figure that has proved correct when we go and examine the godowns."

SRI A. GOPALAKRISHNAYYA :—" The target figures for the Andhra districts are rather high."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" It is too late to question about figures."

* THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Mr. Narayanaswami Nayudu's figures are incorrect. Procurement of rice in 1945-46 is 13 lakhs; and procurement of rice up to 31st August 1947 is 12 lakhs

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and odd. Imports of all kinds of food in 1945-46 amount to six lakhs of tons, and in 1946-47 it is two lakhs. The total deficit in imports is three lakhs and eighty-nine thousand tons."

SRI B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU :—" So the figure I gave is perfectly correct."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Is your figure also the same? "

SRI B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU :—" Yes, I gave it from your note."

1-15 P.M. * THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Mr. Narayanaswami Nayudu spoke about the improvement of agriculture and so on. He brought to our notice things that we should do. It is better that I let him know what we have done so far, so that he might be assured that his suggestions have already been acted upon and shall be acted upon in future. First he referred to electrical connections to wells and electrical pumps and so on. Sir, it is the only way in which we can do it. Wells do not come up in a day. They take a long time and the Government have given the necessary subsidy. As long as the wells are dug and the subsidy is given there is nothing lost, for the irrigation is there. There is one fact which all of us should know. (Sri C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliyar: 'What I said was there were existing wells which if electrical connections were given to them would give us more water.' 'Electrical connections to wells and electrical pumps to be fixed as the first and if necessary the sole function of the department concerned along with such supply and maintenance.' That is his suggestion. The answer is that electricity supply to wells is given the highest priority and the Electricity department is doing all they can do to give the maximum number of connections. The limitation which prevents more supply is lack of materials. Though large amounts have been ordered, delivery had been poor and continue to be so due to the world conditions. The Hon. the Prime Minister also made you aware of the fact that we have placed orders for Rs. 2 crores worth of electrical materials. The charge should not be as if we are not acting upon it. But on account of the international position and delay in imports we are having great difficulties and we are doing the maximum in the present conditions."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" So far as electrical materials with the military which are under disposal are concerned have the Government secured all that could be done? "

* THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Whatever could be done is being done. We have taken goods at auctions wherever military goods were available after fixing a fair price. We are doing all these things."

SRI B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU :—" All that might have gone to Pakistan."

* THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" About all those goods there was a bid by the Sind Government and we also offered to

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purchase the same goods. We did not allow the Sind Government to purchase. We offered more (2 lakhs more) than what was offered by the Sind Government and we have secured all those things. We ourselves are watching the situation and trying to get the best of the materials.

"With regard to the Thermal Scheme which you suggested at Nellore, I understand from the Hon. Minister, Mr. Bakthavatsalam"

MR. PRESIDENT:—"I would like to have another information. I have been corresponding with the Electricity Department in the matter of extension of electricity. The latest letter that I have received is to the effect that no more extension can be thought of at least for 18 months. Does it mean that no well can be served for at least 18 months to come? I just want to know. Is it an absolute fact like that?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"That is in regard to particular areas, Sir."

* MR. PRESIDENT:—"I do not know if it is in reference to a particular area. Why should it be like that in a particular area?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"If materials are available, the first charge is for agricultural purposes. That as I have told you is the basic condition on which we work. If any electrical connexions in any particular area is such that it would require a large amount of material to finish it, naturally it must take its turn."

MR. PRESIDENT:—"Then am I wrong in thinking that the Government are not going to take any extension of electricity for another 18 months?"

* THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"Even now they are having it, Sir, but only it depends upon the area and it differs from place to place."

"With regard to the Nellore Thermal Scheme I understand from my Hon. Friend Mr. Bakthavatsalam that it is under the consideration of the Government and it is almost sanctioned. A power generating plant has already been ordered in anticipation of sanction and a part of the machinery has arrived. Every effort will be made by the Electricity Department to instal the plant as early as possible."

"Then with regard to supply to agricultural farms. There has been so far no conflict between the supply to urban areas and the supply to rural areas. The department of distribution is mostly in rural areas and as has already been stated the highest priority is being given to supply to pumps. More than that, I do not think it is possible for the Government to say now."

"I am very glad to note, Sir, that as many as 23 Members of this House have taken part in this discussion in a House of barely over 40. It is a matter for congratulation that so many hon. Members should have taken pains to study the report that I

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have submitted and also offer suggestions which they have made. I can also assure you, Sir, that those suggestions have been very valuable and useful to us in the framing of the future food policy of the Government. I may also tell you, Sir, that we are very anxious to get the maximum co-operation, willing co-operation, of all the citizens of this country in helping us with regard to the organization of the Food Campaign, with regard to production and various other matters to which reference has been made in this House. It is with that view, Sir, that I convened a sort of consultative conference two months ago wherein I made a full statement of the position of food in this country and sought the advice of that conference. And now, Sir, I have sought the advice of this House which has been given in a very liberal measure for which I am very grateful. I am awaiting the termination of the discussion in the Assembly which is to continue for two days more after which I will be in a position to assess the help we have received in this sphere. It is our intention to feed the people, to feed the poor man and save the people from starvation. We shall keep our door open for any criticism and any suggestion that is made. Provided it is made helpfully and usefully we shall certainly adopt them."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" You don't object to the correct figures being given to you? "

* THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Of course not, Sir. If my figures are wrong, I will be the first to accept it. I am not afraid of saying that I shall correct my figures if they are wrong. I will be dishonest if I do not do it. Of course I stand by my figures. I do not say that is all gospel truth but we have paid the greatest care and attention to it. If in spite of it something has crept in and it is proved that it is wrong I shall be the first man . . . "

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I think that is the object of the hon. Members that more care may be bestowed on collecting of figures. "

* THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" All care has been bestowed on it, Sir.

" I have told you already why the Government are not able to get all the correct figures they want because there is a lack of public co-operation with regard to supply of these figures. I suppose I made that point perfectly clear. Therefore if this willing co-operation is coming from them—even in their own self-interest they have to give us the figures—that would save them the trouble of charging us that our figures are not correct. If that is not given are the Government to drop their work and keep quiet because we do not get figures. We have a certain estimate and if it is pointed out how those figures are incorrect we will be the first to correct it. What is the figure worth if it does not give me a correct estimate of the food at my disposal to feed the poor man? If we get any information in the construction of these figures so that we might rectify our mistakes we shall be only very thankful and grateful for such information. What we want is more information should be given to us. Our regret is that such information that we seek is not given to us to the extent that we desire.

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" Many things were said, Sir, in this debate which I would like to refer to. I am also thankful to the Hon. the Prime Minister and the Hon. Minister for Agriculture for coming to my help with regard to the many figures that have been submitted and the criticisms that have been made.

" Sir, there was one criticism made about the commercial crops that are grown. I must however refer to it. In estimating our loss of foodgrains in relation to commercial crops, I think we have got to be a bit more generous. I quite understand why it is that commercial crops are grown. It is because the price of paddy is not high. That is just the reason. The agriculturists want more money and therefore they go in for it. The second point is that all lands on which commercial crops are grown are not lands that can be converted into paddy cultivating lands. That also should be borne in mind.

" For example, on the land on which tobacco is grown, you cannot cultivate paddy. On the land on which sugarcane is grown can you cultivate paddy? You must allow the agriculturist that amount of margin in consideration of the soil of the land, water facilities available, etc. After all when all is said and done I will take the House one step further. We are a deficit province so far as sugar is concerned. Therefore we should have more sugar for this province and the sugarcane production should not be absolutely and mercilessly criticized. Even from the caloric value sugar contains more calories than rice.

" Then I come to groundnut. Sir, groundnut is cultivated on absolutely dry soil and at places where rain is scarce. They simply throw the groundnut and it grows. The agriculturist gets more money from the land in which nothing else would grow. I shall say, Sir, that groundnut is a food, a very valuable food. The Government had once the idea of distributing groundnut in the rural areas if there was diminution in rice. Subsequently we had some foodgrains and we did not go into that venture. Those of you who have been in villages should realize that this is a very valuable food consumed by the poor people.

" Coming to plantains, Sir, it is again the same thing. Plantains could be cultivated only in certain areas with advantage. I am told by the Hon. Prime Minister that it is only some 12,000 acres on the whole and it forms only one per cent of the total cultivation. When we go into the plantains question, Sir, to-day we see when food is scarce, a man with two annas in his pocket is able to get 6 or 8 plantains and he is able to fill his stomach with a first class food, cultivated in the neighbourhood.

" When once people take to commercial crops they have to count against all these factors. From the figures at my disposal, I do not see any justification for throttling any of these crops. In regard to tobacco I am told it is necessary to cultivate it in the interests of the land itself. That is why this Government, after once preventing the development of tobacco cultivation, have again realized its importance in the interests of the land and allowed its cultivation. There are conditions which we must realize. Those of us who have been agriculturists will easily understand crop

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rotations, soil conditions, water conditions, and eventually production in relation to food. All these factors we have got before us which we always carefully scrutinize. Therefore I do not see any immediate necessity to order the complete stoppage of these commercial crops which will make our poor people desperate. And the acreage under these commercial crops is very little.

"Sir, it does not affect the development of rice fields in other parts, where rice alone would grow, for example in the Circars particularly nothing else will grow. The whole problem is how to increase the yield of produce and that could be done immediately by the many methods which we are trying to do. Increased and better seeds give 5 per cent more produce; increased manure means 10 per cent more produce and increased drainage another 10 per cent increase in produce. And everywhere we are trying to see how we can encourage the ryot. Sir, this Government is not unaware of the facts and therefore we have now decided to give half the bonus for paddy as manure."

MR. PRESIDENT:—"I will inform the Government that in my district, there is scarcity of seeds."

* THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"Simply because our production of seed grains is not equal to the demand."

MR. PRESIDENT:—"On account of the procurement policy every excess grain in the hands of the ryot is taken away and he is in difficulty in procuring the necessary stuff."

* THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"I do not want any and every grain. My seed is decidedly good and a judicious use of it will increase the yield. That is what I am referring to."

2 p.m.

MR. PRESIDENT:—"I should like to know if the Government are making any special efforts to supply good seeds to districts such as my district."

* THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"The Government are supplying seeds to two million acres and they have got to supply seeds to ten million acres. We have departmental seed farms and private seed farms also are being encouraged. The quantity of seeds available is increasing every year. I produce on my farm 300 to 500 bags of seed paddy which I sell to the Government. If every ryot gets his seed either from the Agricultural department or from other ryots who have got seed grains and sees to it that the seeds are not contaminated and transplantation is done properly you will find that food production is increased. The quick remedy is not to have more canals, more tanks and so on, but intensive cultivation which would give greater yield. That is the quickest method of producing more food. It is on these lines that we have planned our bounty also.

"The Government have recognized that the distribution of manure is the primary thing to increase production. That is why we are giving to the ryots half manure and half cash as bonus. With regard to groundnut cake we have been fighting a battle royal with the Government of India and asking them to control the export of groundnut from this Province. We have been fighting

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for the last one year and we hope to be successful. The Government of India on their part have to consider the requirements of the other provinces and of international trade. Even the withdrawal of control over groundnut is not entirely the fault of the Government of India. There was some complaint about control and some of the responsible people said that if control was removed everything would be alright. By taking away the control they have increased the price of groundnut kernels enormously. When the price of kernels went up, the kernels also have left our Province and we have been deprived of the cake. What was being sold here for Rs. 40 or Rs. 50 before has now to be got for Rs. 250 from other places to which the kernels have gone. It is a vicious circle. Therefore, with regard to food production, if you want more prices for groundnut you must be prepared to pay more prices for cake also. If groundnut is controlled, the prices of groundnut will go down and we will have the satisfaction of conserving the groundnut cakes in our Province. I have explained the relative position of the groundnut kernels and groundnut cakes. For the present position in this matter, the politicians in Madras are partly responsible, because when their demand for the removal of control was agreed to they were glad to find the prices of groundnut going up, but the catastrophe came immediately as groundnut kernels disappeared from the place altogether.

"I have explained at length the present situation. I should like to plan for the future with such knowledge as I possess, and with the help of the department. The assistance of people who can speak with inside knowledge of agriculture would be of great advantage to me in working my department to the satisfaction of the people. Unfortunately we were faced with a very critical situation as soon as we took up office, but we have spared no pains—personal or State—to improve the situation. We have provided funds liberally; we have gone round the country ourselves and we have appealed to the producers to assist us, even to the extent of the Prime Minister saying in one of his speeches that under certain circumstances the Government would have to use force. There is nothing wrong in what he said. In fact he said that at a place where illicit traffic was going on by sea and as much as 50,000 tons were being exported along the Tanjore coast to Jaffna and the police were unable to control it. It was said at that time and as an administrator he was perfectly justified in saying that. He never meant Andhra or Tamil or any place particularly. In fact it was said in the Tamil country where illicit traffic was going on much to the detriment of the food situation. I do not see why anybody should get angry about it."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—"May we know something about the re-orientation of the Grow More Food Scheme and the Hon. Minister's plans for the future?"

* THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—"I think I have in a way pointed out the skeleton programme, namely better seeds, better manure and better drainage. With regard to other things, it is very difficult for us to say what exactly is the acreage brought under

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paddy under the scheme, because the raw lands that are being brought under cultivation will take 3 to 5 years to give normal yield. Under the Grow More Food Scheme we have got to extend the acreage under cultivation. Capital should be invested both with regard to source of water-supply and with regard to tilling the land and making it fit for cultivation. It is a matter of time. Even the Government of India calculated the period as five years. It is barely two years since the scheme was started and if we are not able to give facts and figures with regard to increased production it is only natural. It is easy enough to say that some more food is coming because there have been some more months to feed and we are still living. But any information I should like to give should be in the shape of exact figures. That is why I have left the matter there with just making a reference to it." [Sri A. Gopalakrishnayya : (Interruption).]

* THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" There is no use in saying that prices should be increased. I know the poor ryots have got to get more. The question is wherefrom it has to be got and who is to pay? Is it the consumer or the State? [Sri A. Gopalakrishnayya : (Interruption).] The whole thing has to be considered with reference to all possible reactions. With reference to the Government of India, it is easy enough to say that the Government of India are responsible. But we here have got to run the Province and it is not the Government of India who are running the Province. We must make the best use of the present situation. Simply to say, ' We want a few more rupees ' will not solve the problem.

" I am sorry I have kept the House waiting long."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" That is why I said that we might rise and meet again."

* THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" I have touched on the important points raised in the course of the discussion and I shall close now ; I have got the other House to consider now. I hope, Sir, that after what I have said Mr. Narayanaswami Nayudu will withdraw his amendment."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I would like to bring to the notice of the Government one fact. The rules about procurement are all right. They say : ' so much for the cultivation expenses, so much for seed ' and so on. But complaints have reached me especially from my district that officials in their zeal for procurement have been hard on the poor people and not the richer men. If they go to a person like Mr. Gopalakrishnayya, he will face them with the rules. But in the case of poor ryots, the officials arrive at rough and ready methods and ask them to surrender 50 per cent or 70 per cent of their stocks. The poor man is afraid and the result is he delivers the paddy and the next day he finds he has a big deficit in his family budget. Such sort of complaints have been reaching me. I did not bring them to the notice of the Government before, because it may have an effect on the procurement policy and the Government may not be able to get what they wanted."

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I only request the Government to look into the matter and see if really poor people are subject to this kind of pressure namely that without regard to any rules they are made to surrender 50 per cent or 70 per cent of their stocks."

* THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" There is a rule"

MR. PRESIDENT :—" There is a rule. But in their zeal most of the officials do not strictly observe the rule. I hope the Government will look into the matter."

SRI M. D. T. KUMARASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" Sir, I want to mention another point. If the entire paddy is procured, there will be difficulty for the coming season, because there will be no seed left."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" They are not procuring the entire paddy, I think."

SRI M. D. T. KUMARASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" That is being done in some villages."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I think the hon. Member Mr. Narayanaswami Nayudu though he may not withdraw his amendment, will not press it to a division."

SRI B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU :—" The real question is the question of prices. I am glad to find hon. Members on the other side agreeing with me on this point, but they cannot vote with me because a whip has gone round to the contrary. I would be the last man to embarrass them by making them vote one way when they have spoken in another way. It is only to prevent that embarrassment that I am not pressing my amendment. Also, if this resolution is defeated, the Government will be at a disadvantage in their bargaining with the Government of India in regard to the increase in prices because Dr. Rajendra Prasad would say to our Government: 'Your own Council has voted against increase in prices.' That is the only consideration impelling me to withdraw my amendment, even surrendering all my convictions in this matter. I do not want to press the amendment."

"One more thing, Sir. We have 'no wear, no tear and no care' politicians on one side and 'all wear, all tear and all care' agriculturists on the other side. If you want to tackle the problem, you must tackle both. Then there is the Central Government, a sort of fifth wheel to the coach and the entrenched services. At present it is not the head that is moving the tail, but it is the tail that is moving the head. I want, Sir, that you should prod and purge the services—prod the inefficient and purge the corrupt. I have no doubt, Sir, that unless the services are prodded and purged, this problem will not be solved. It is in that hope and in spite of my convictions, I shall agree not to press my motion. I will withdraw my motion and I will do anything you want provided you see to it that the paddy industry is not depressed. The hon. Member from Malabar spoke about the Government of India, of currency

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and inflation. But the real question is one of the soap politicians versus the agriculturists. The producer in Malabar or Coimbatore does not know about these. There is a vocal section always holding meetings and voicing forth its opinions. There is a contest between these two forces. Whether it is a case of the peasant or the prisoner, the whole thing depends on who is the master of the situation."

The amendment of Sri B. Narayanaswami Nayudu was not pressed.

MR. PRESIDENT :—" The motion is talked out. The House will now adjourn and meet again at 11 a.m. on the 22nd September."

